MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
DOCTOR STRANGE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
175 DEC
UNTO US... THE SONS OF SATANNISH!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOURNEY BELOW THE BUSY, BUSTLING STREETS OF MANHATTAN...THRU THE DANK, SUNLESS CORRIDORS WHICH EXIST BENEATH OUR VERY FEET...AND INTO A TWILIGHT WORLD WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE FEW MORTALS SUSPECT...
ABLY ESCORTED BY:
STAN LEE, EDITOR
ROY THOMAS, WRITER
GENE COLAN, ARTIST
TOM PALMER, INKER
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
UNTO US...

THE SONS OF
SPAWN!

WE HAVE LOCATED THOSE WHOM WE SEEK, O ASMODEUS, THRU THE SATAN-SPHERE!
IT IS WELL, MARDUK!
GATHER 'ROUND, YE LESSER ONES... AND PREPARE TO MARVEL!
HOW IRONIC THAT, AFTER ALL OUR CASTING ABOUT IN GREENWICH VILLAGE---
IT SHOULD BE RATHER IN THE QUIET CONFINES OF CENTRAL PARK---
...THAT WE SHOULD FIND OUR INTENDED PREY---
DR. STRANGE AND THE GIRL CALLED CLEA!
WHY SO SILENT, MY DEAR, ON SUCH A GLORIOUS AUTUMN AFTERNOON?
PLEASE DO NOT TAKE MY SILENCE FOR MELANCHOLY, MY LOVE!
IT IS MERELY MY WAY...TO TAKE MY PLEASURES QUITE SERIOUSLY!

I'M OVERJOYED THAT YOU FIND OUR EARTH-DIMENSION NOT A BAD PLACE TO BE EXILED TO, CLEA!
FOR, SINCE IT'S ONLY HERE THAT THE DREAD DORMAMMU CANNOT HARM YOU, YOU MAY HAVE TO REMAIN HERE...
...PERHAPS FOREVER!
AND YET, I DO MISS THE FAR-FLUNG WORLD WHERE I WAS WONT TO ROAM...
FREE TO FLY... TO USE SUCH POWERS AS I POSSESS, AT WILL!
HERE, ALL MEN SAVE YOU SEEM CUT OF THE SAME STAMP...
ALIKE IN SPEECH... IN THE VERY ORNAMENTS OF DRESS!
BUT NOW, THE DUSK IS DRAWING NEAR!
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME... FOR I HAVE WORK TO PURSUE!
YET, THEY MUST BE FOUND... AND QUICKLY, OR...
OH... NOT ALL, FAIR ONE!
YES... I SUPPOSE YOU MUST!
I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB HER BY TELLING HER WHAT I RECENTLY LEARNED...
THAT DISCIPLES OF THE AWESOME ENTITY SATANNISH ARE ABROAD IN THE LAND!*
CLEA!
*SEE OUR LAST INCREDULOUS ISH FOR DETAILS! ...STAN.

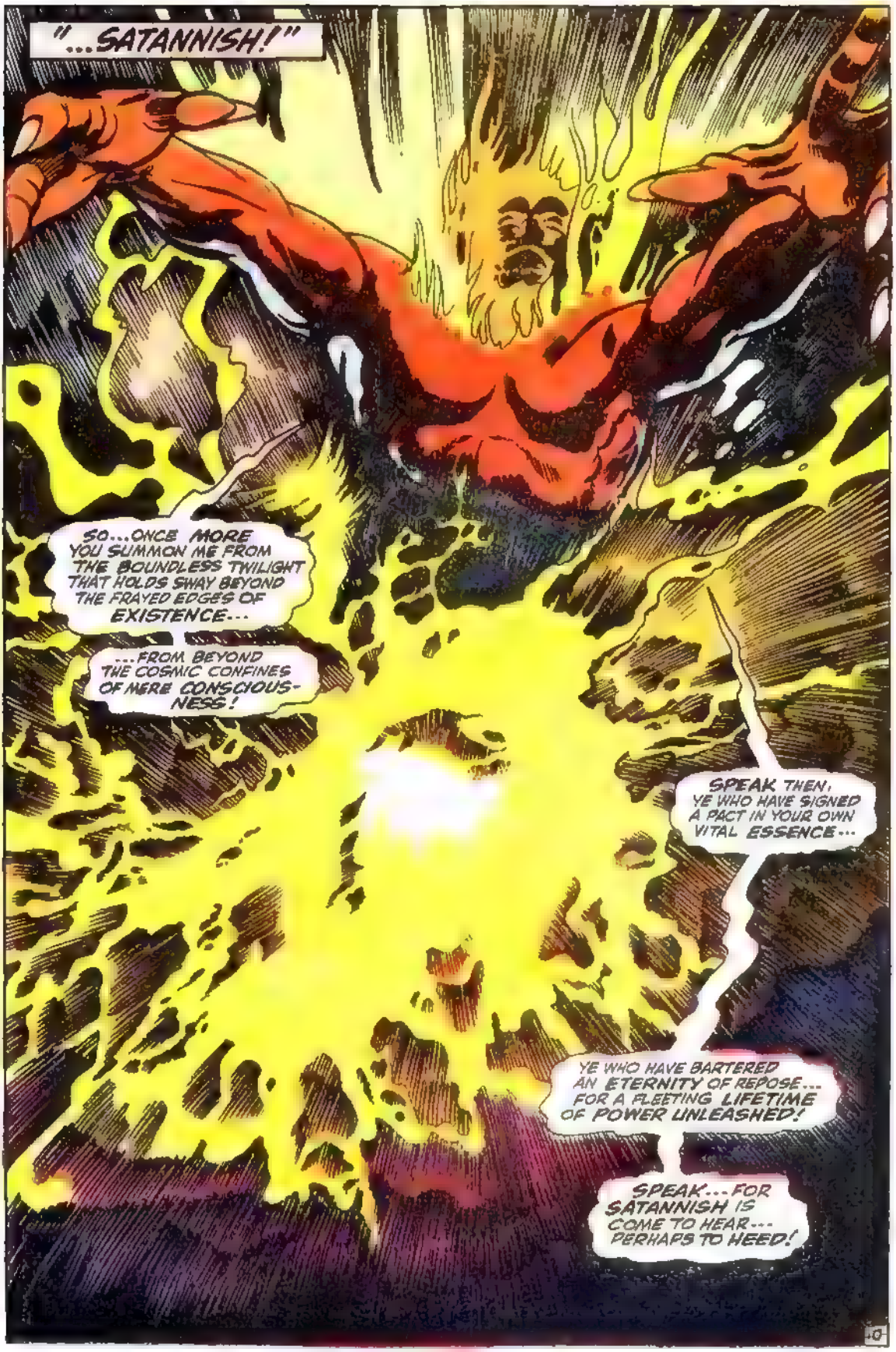
IT IS NO USE...I CAN NO LONGER BEAR TO OBEY THE LAWS OF A WORLD WHERE MEN WALK ON THE GROUND, LIKE MERE BEASTS!
I MUST FLY--- WHERE THE SOARING BIRDS LEAVE NO TRACKS... AND THE WINDS NO PATH!
IF ONLY FOR AN INSTANT... I MUST FLY!!
NO... WAIT!
I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS... FOR, I, TOO, KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LEAVE BEHIND THE RESTRICTIONS OF MERE EARTH-BOUND MEN!
BUT, SHE DARES NOT REVEAL HER PRESENCE TO THOSE WHO MIGHT THEN FEAR HER... AS A WITCH!
FORTUNATELY, MY POWERS ARE MUCH GREATER THAN HERS!
THUS, PERHAPS I CAN BRING HER DOWN, BEFORE IRREPARABLE HARM IS DONE!
IN THE NAME OF THE EVER-WATCHFUL VISHANTI!... LET WAVES OF MYSTIC FORCE NOW WAFT THE GIRL BACK TO EARTH!
PLEASE... DO NOT BE ANGRY, MY LOVE!
IT WAS BUT A FOOLISH IMPULSE..!
IT IS NOT IN MY HEART TO FEEL ANGER TOWARDS YOU!
AND YET, OTHER EYES HAVE BEHELD YOUR ACTION... EYES THAT SEE, BUT DO NOT COMPREHEND..!
5.

DID YOU GET A LOOK AT THAT? THAT GIRL WAS... FLYING!
BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
DID WE SEE IT... OR DIDN'T WE?
Y'KNOW, SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THOSE TWO!
BUT, FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT..!
HOWEVER, AN INSTANT LATER, DR. STRANGE HAS ACTED...
A SIMPLE MYSTIC PASS REMOVED THEIR MEMORIES OF THE MOMENT... AND PRESERVES OUR ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET!
WE'RE OUT OF EARSHOT NOW, SO...
WHAT IS IT, CLEA? YOU SEEM SO PALE!
FEEL... A BIT DIZZY ... SO STRANGELY, SUDDENLY WEAK!
BUT, IT'S NOTHING ...IT WILL PASS!
PERHAPS SO!
AND YET, YOU'RE ON A WORLD VERY NEW... VERY ALIEN TO YOU!
WE DARE NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES... NOT NOW!
TAXI!
HAH! CONCERNED WITH THE GIRL'S WELFARE, OUR CHOSEN FOE DOES NOT SUSPECT OUR EYES UPON HIM!
TAXI
NOR SHALL HE... UNTIL IT IS FAR, FAR TOO LATE!

BUT, EXCELLENCY... YOU SAW WITH WHAT CONSUMMATE EASE HE OVERCAME THE SILVER-HAIRED ONE'S OWN POWER OF FLIGHT!
SUCH A ONE COULD OVERCOME ANY OF US IN MYSTIC COMBAT!
ANY, PERHAPS... BUT NOT ALL!
ALONE... WITH NOTHING BUT OUR SEPARATE OCCULT WILES TO SUSTAIN US... WE COULD NOT STAND AGAINST THE ACCURSED DISCIPLE OF THE ANCIENT ONE!
YET, IF MANY WOLVES ATTACK THE LION... SHALL IT NOT BE THE KING OF BEASTS WHO FALLS?
AND, MAKE NO MISTAKE... DR. STRANGE SHALL BE OUR PROUD BUT PERISHED LION!
NOW, BE SILENT... I WOULD OBSERVE OUR UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS STILL MORE CLOSELY!
A MERE TOKEN INCREASE IN OUR CONCERTED POWERS...
AND EVEN THEIR VERY WORDS SHALL BE AUDIBLE TO US...!
OFF TAXI DUTY
...AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU BEEN HACKIN' CABS AS LONG AS I HAVE...
WELL, I MEAN, YOU JUST LEARN WHAT TYPES TO STEER CLEAR OF!
SALE
Y'KNOW, MAC, I USUALLY DON'T STOP TO PICK UP ANYBODY DRESSED IN HIPPIE GET-UP LIKE YOU AND THE LADY THERE...
BUT, I SEEN RIGHT OFF THAT YOU AN' YOUR GIRL FRIEND WUZ DIFFERENT...
IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

IF MY CAB-DRIVING FRIEND ONLY KNEW HOW DIFFERENT...!
THE VILLAGE, PLEASE, DRIVER!
SURE THING, PAL!
FOR YOU... I'LL TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE!
SO... THE INFERNAL STRANGE HAS ACQUIRED A SEPARATE PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR HIS SILVER-TRESSED LADY FAIR!
A PITY THAT NEITHER OF THEM SHALL EVER REACH IT... ALIVE!
I'VE HAD THIS UNCANNY FEELING... EVER SINCE WE WERE IN THE PARK!
A SENSE OF OVER-WHELMING MENACE... HOVERING NEARER THAN A WHISPER!
PERHAPS I'M MERELY BEING OVER-ZEALOUS, AND YET...!
NOW... THE TIME HAS COME TO ACT!
LET US RAISE OUR VOICES TO-GETHER, MY BALEFUL BROTHERS...
THAT WE MAY BE HEARD BY THE FAR-OFF SATANNISH HIMSELF!
WE HEAR AND OBEY, EXCELLENCY!
8

NEXT, IN AN EERILY SINISTER CHORUS OF VOICES, A CACOPHONOUS CRESCENDO ECHOES THRU THE SUNLESS CONCRETE CAVERNS---
FROM REALMS WHERE PLANETS BOW BEFORE ONE FEARFUL ENTITY...
COME NOW---OUR VENGEFUL SPIRITS SHORE--- SATANNISH, HEAR OUR PLEA!
FOR AN EPHEMERAL, ETERNAL MOMENT, AN UNEASY HUSH PERVADES THE UNHOLY CONGREGATION! AND THEN---
I FEEL HIS PRESENCE--- DRAWING NEARER, EVER NEARER..!
HE HAS HEARD HIS HUMBLE WORSHIPPERS... AND IS PREPARED TO GIVE ANSWER!
LOOK NOW, MY BROTHERS--- INTO THE BLACK, ABYSMAL DEPTHS OF YOUR INNERMOST BEING!
FOR, IT IS WITHIN US ALL THAT HE DWELLS---HE WHO IS SUPREME LORD OF ALL HE SURVEYS---
HE WHO IS CALLED BY THE NAME AMONG NAMES...
9.

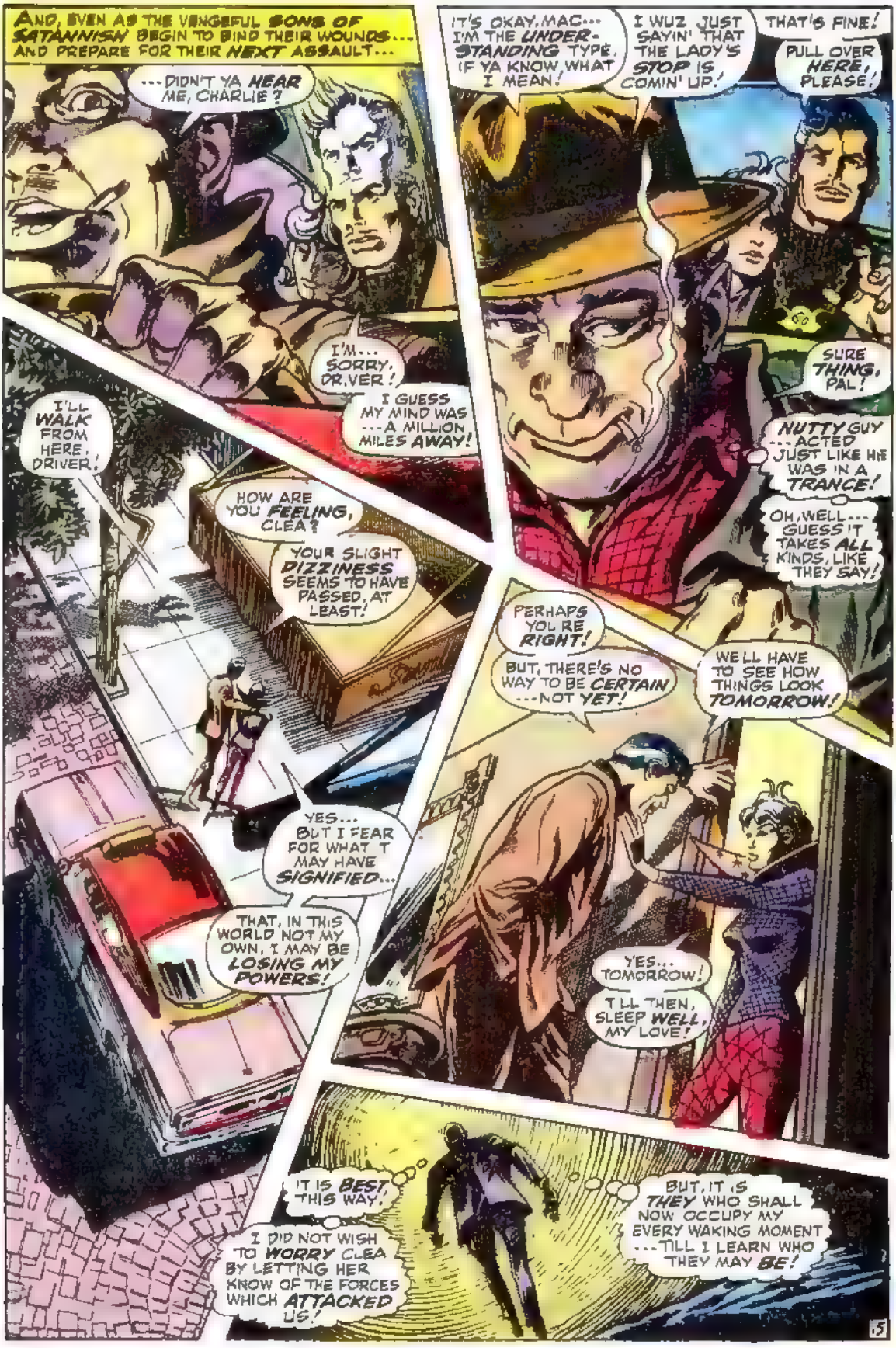

"...SATANNISH!"
SO...ONCE MORE YOU SUMMON ME FROM THE BOUNDLESS TWILIGHT THAT HOLDS SWAY BEYOND THE FRAYED EDGES OF EXISTENCE...
...FROM BEYOND THE COSMIC CONFINES OF MERE CONSCIOUSNESS!
SPEAK THEN, YE WHO HAVE SIGNED A PACT IN YOUR OWN VITAL ESSENCE...
YE WHO HAVE BARTERED AN ETERNITY OF REPOSE... FOR A FLEETING LIFETIME OF POWER UNLEASHED!
SPEAK... FOR SATANNISH IS COME TO HEAR... PERHAPS TO HEED!

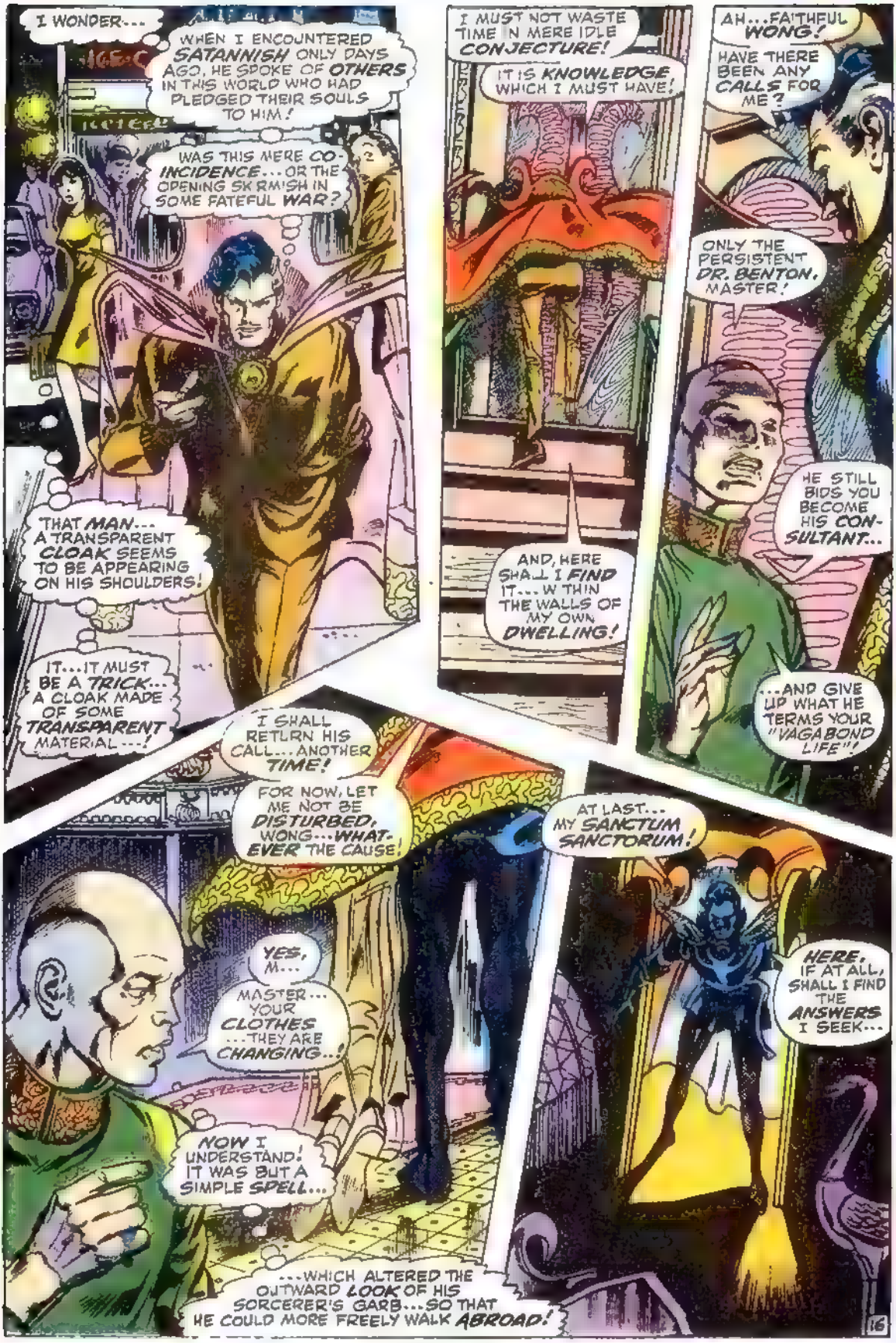
GIVE US, LORD OF THE GALACTIC THUNDER, YET MORE POWER... THE BETTER TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO WOULD OPPOSE US!
THUS ENTREATS ASMODEUS... HE WHO IS SUPREME AMONG THESE EQUALS!
SPEAK OF NONE AS BEING SUPREME, EARTH-BOUND MORTAL... NOT WHILST SATANNISH STRIDES THE COSMOS!
YET, YOU SHALL HAVE SUCH EXTRA POWER... BECAUSE IT PLEASES ME!
HAIL TO THE ALL-WISE SATANNISH!
NO NOT ALL-WISE... OR HE WOULD NOT GRANT OUR WISHES FOR GREATER EVER GREATER MIGHT!
...MIGHT THAT MAY ONE DAY BE TURNED AGAINST HIM... AS IT NOW SHALL BE AGAINST DR. STRANGE!
YES... NOW I'M SURE OF IT!
A SPELL IS BEING FORMED... ABOUT THIS VERY TAXI!
AND, ITS UN-DOUBTED TARGETS ARE... DR. STRANGE AND CLEA!
..CAN'T YOU PUT ON A LITTLE SPEED, DRIVER?
SORRY, DRIVER... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
WAIT! I SEEM TO SENSE ONCE MORE THE THREAT I FELT A FEW MOMENTS AGO!
I'M DOIN' THE BEST I CAN, MAC!
AN' HERE I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU VILLAGE CATS WAS THE EASY-GOIN' TYPE!

I DON'T WISH TO DISTURB CLEA--- WHO IS WEARY TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION...
NOR MUST THE CAB-DRIVER GUESS AT MY OCCULT POWER...
YET, I DARE NOT DELAY... FOR EVEN NOW, I FEEL THE MYSTIC WEB TIGHTENING ABOUT US!
ONLY ONE COURSE REMAINS OPEN--- ONE PATH TO PURSUE...
MY ASTRAL BODY MUST LEAVE MY FRAIL PHYSICAL FRAME---
FOR ONLY IT... INVISIBLE, INTANGIBLE...
---MAY MEET WHATEVER MENACE THREATENS US BOTH---
...WITHOUT REVEALING MY LONG-GUARDED SECRET TO THE WORLD OF MEN!
12

BUT, IN THE NEXT BONE-CHILLING INSTANT, THE ASTRAL SELF OF DR STRANGE DISCOVERS THAT SHIELDING A SECRET IDENTITY MAY BE THE LEAST OF HIS PONDEROUS PROBLEMS...
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH!
AND, THEY DRAW EVER MORE TIGHTLY ABOUT ME!
I AM ENTRAPPED ...SURROUNDED BY RINGS OF SOME NEGATIVISTIC, NIHILISTIC FORCE!
THEY WILL RUTHLESSLY CRUSH MY ETHEREAL FORM—
...AS RELENTLESSLY... AS LETHALLY AS THEY WOULD CRUSH MY PHYSICAL BODY!
YET, I MUST NOT DESPAIR ...GIVE WAY TO FEAR!
AND, CONQUER, I SHALL!
BY THE SEVEN BANDS OF CYTORRAK... BY WHOM ALL THINGS ARE HELD...
NO MAN... BE HE SERVANT, SORCERER, OR SAINT...CAN HOPE TO LIVE FOREVER IN SAFETY!
MAN WAS MEANT TO STRIVE... TO STRUGGLE...TO CONQUER!
13

BY THE DARK-SOULED DEMONS OF DENAK... NOW BE THESE BANDS DISPELLED!
THEN, AS THE UNSUSPECTING MULTITUDES GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY TASKS, ONLY HALF A WORLD AWAY, THE FORCE OF DR. STRANGE'S AWESOME INCANTATION BEGINS TO TAKE ITS TOLL...
...WHILE, IN THE DIMLY-LIT CAVERNS BENEATH THEIR VERY FEET...
HIS SPELL IS AFFECTING EVEN THE SATAN-SPHERE!
WE MUST HAVE MORE POWER... MORE POWER..!
IT IS... TOO LATE!
DR. STRANGE HAS WON THE FIRST ROUND!


AND, EVEN AS THE VENGEFUL SONS OF SATANNISH BEGIN TO BIND THEIR WOUNDS... AND PREPARE FOR THEIR NEXT ASSAULT...
---DIDN'T YA HEAR ME, CHARLIE?
I'M... SORRY, DRIVER!
I GUESS MY MIND WAS ---A MILLION MILES AWAY!
I'LL WALK FROM HERE, DRIVER!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, CLEA?
YOUR SLIGHT DIZZINESS SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED, AT LEAST!
YES... BUT I FEAR FOR WHAT T MAY HAVE SIGNIFIED...
THAT, IN THIS WORLD NOT MY OWN, I MAY BE LOSING MY POWERS!
IT'S OKAY, MAC... I'M THE UNDER-STANDING TYPE, IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
I WUZ JUST SAYIN' THAT THE LADY'S STOP IS COMIN' UP!
THAT'S FINE!
PULL OVER HERE, PLEASE!
SURE THING, PAL!
NUTTY GUY ---ACTED JUST LIKE HE WAS IN A TRANCE!
OH, WELL--- GUESS IT TAKES ALL KINDS, LIKE THEY SAY!
PERHAPS YOU RE RIGHT!
BUT, THERE'S NO WAY TO BE CERTAIN ---NOT YET!
WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW THINGS LOOK TOMORROW!
YES... TOMORROW!
T LL THEN, SLEEP WELL, MY LOVE!
IT IS BEST THIS WAY!
I DID NOT WISH TO WORRY CLEA BY LETTING HER KNOW OF THE FORCES WHICH ATTACKED US!
BUT, IT IS THEY WHO SHALL NOW OCCUPY MY EVERY WAKING MOMENT ---TILL I LEARN WHO THEY MAY BE!
15

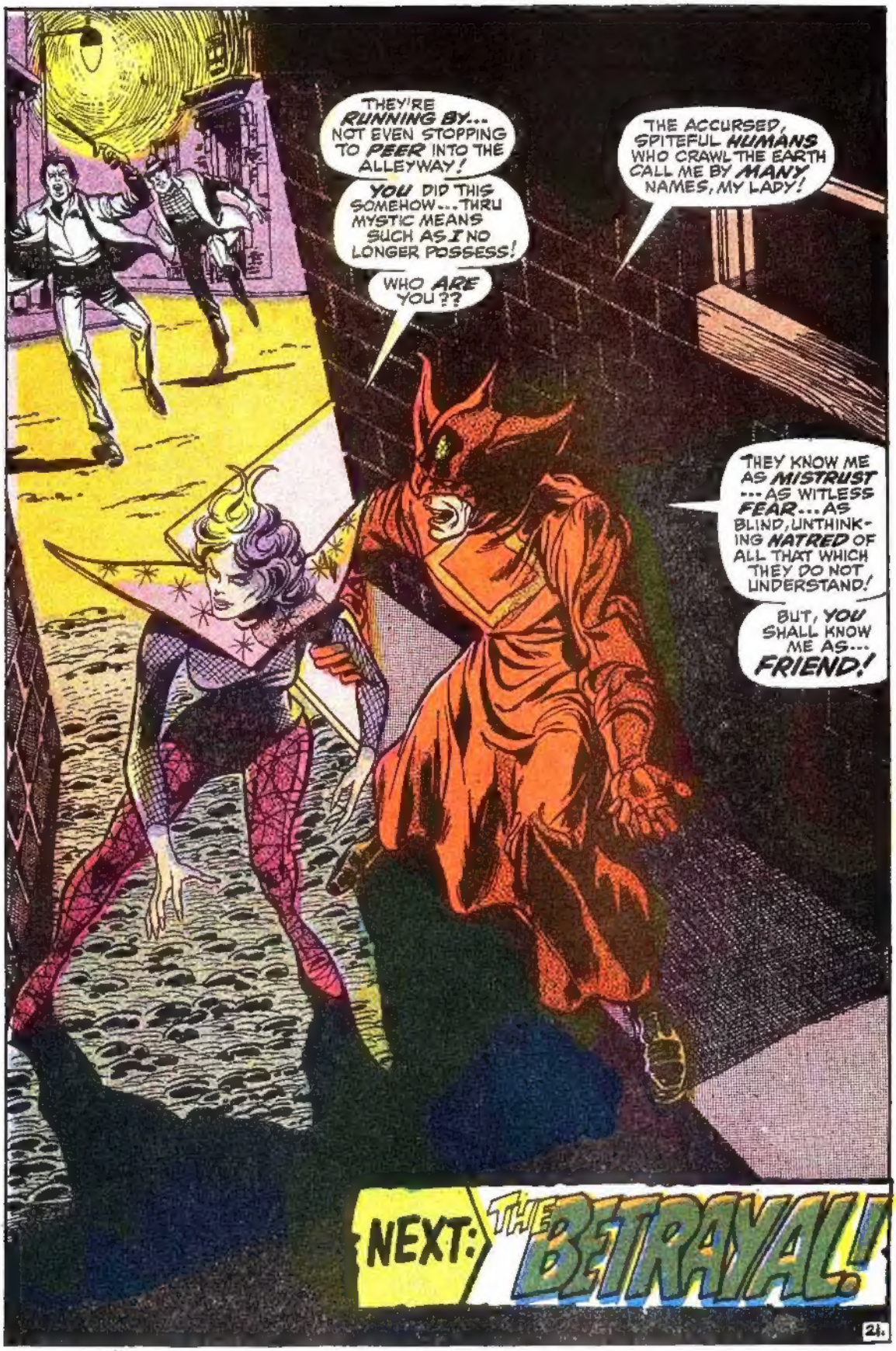

I WONDER...
WHEN I ENCOUNTERED SATANNISH ONLY DAYS AGO, HE SPOKE OF OTHERS IN THIS WORLD WHO HAD PLEDGED THEIR SOULS TO HIM!
WAS THIS MERE CO-INCIDENCE... OR THE OPENING SKIRMISH IN SOME FATEFUL WAR?
THAT MAN... A TRANSPARENT CLOAK SEEMS TO BE APPEARING ON HIS SHOULDERS!
IT...IT MUST BE A TRICK... A CLOAK MADE OF SOME TRANSPARENT MATERIAL...!
I MUST NOT WASTE TIME IN MERE IDLE CONJECTURE!
IT IS KNOWLEDGE, WHICH I MUST HAVE!
AND, HERE SHALL I FIND IT... WITHIN THE WALLS OF MY OWN DWELLING!
AH...FAITHFUL WONG!
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CALLS FOR ME?
ONLY THE PERSISTENT DR. BENTON, MASTER!
HE STILL BIDS YOU BECOME HIS CONSULTANT...
...AND GIVE UP WHAT HE TERMS YOUR "VAGABOND LIFE"!
I SHALL RETURN HIS CALL... ANOTHER TIME!
FOR NOW, LET ME NOT BE DISTURBED, WONG... WHATEVER THE CAUSE!
AT LAST... MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM!
HERE, IF AT ALL, SHALL I FIND THE ANSWERS I SEEK...
YES, M...
MASTER... YOUR CLOTHES ...THEY ARE CHANGING..!
NOW I UNDERSTAND! IT WAS BUT A SIMPLE SPELL...
...WHICH ALTERED THE OUTWARD LOOK OF HIS SORCERER'S GARB...SO THAT HE COULD MORE FREELY WALK ABROAD!
16

...WITHIN THE TIME REVERED PAGES OF THE SACRED BOOK OF THE VISHANTI!
IT TAKES BUT A FLEETING MOMENT TO STRIP AWAY THE SHIELD OF NOT-SEEING WHICH HIDES IT FROM PRYING EYES...
SO THAT I MAY UNLOCK YET ANOTHER OF ITS NUMBERLESS SECRETS!
FOR, THOUGH SATANNISH THE SUPREME STANDS FAR ABOVE MERE ANTIPODES OF GOOD AND EVIL... HE MAY WELL BE DEALING WITH HUMANS WHO DO NOT!
IT IS AS I FEARED!
THRU THE AGES, SATANNISH HAS EVER STOOD READY TO BESTOW MYSTIC POWERS...
...UPON THOSE WHO WOULD PAY HIS DREAD PRICE...
AND, SUCH IS THE CUPIDITY... THE SHEER GREED OF MEN...
THAT MANY WOULD PAY SUCH BLASPHEMOUS COST... FOR THE HEADY TASTE OF POWER!
THE PRICE OF THEIR HUMAN SOULS!
YET, I FEAR LESS FOR MY SAFETY THAN FOR CLEA'S!
STILL, NO MAN KNOWS WHERE SHE DWELLS...
LATER AS THE WITCHING HOUR DRAWS NIGH...

WAIT! FOOL THAT I AM...
THERE IS ONE WHO KNOWS!
ONE WHOSE MEMORY I STUPIDLY FORGOT TO ERASE!
...AND AGAIN, THE DARKNESS!
DARKNESS NOT ONLY OF THE SKY... BUT OF THE HEART OF CLEA!
SO LONG AS THE ONE I LOVE IS WITH ME... THE SHADOWS STAND AT BAY!
THE CAB DRIVER! THE CAB DRIVER KNOWS!
BUT, WHEN I AM ALONE... HERE, ON THIS WORLD NOT MY OWN...
THE DOOR-BELL!
BUZZZZ
YET, HOW CAN IT BE... WHEN I KNOW NO ONE HERE SAVE DR. STRANGE AND...
WONG!
FORGIVE THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR, MISS CLEA!
BUT, MY MASTER FEELS HE HAS REASON TO FEAR YOU ARE NO LONGER SAFE HERE!
I AM SENT TO BRING YOU TO HIM ...WITHOUT DELAY!

WHILE, AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...
I DARE TAKE NO CHANCES!
HAVING FAILED TO VANQUISH ME, MY SECRET FOES MAY SEEK TO STRIKE AT CLEA!
THERE IS NO VILE MEANS ...NO DASTARDLY DECEPTION THEY WOULD NOT EMPLOY!
FLY, MY CRIMSON CLOAK OF LEVITATION... AS YOU HAVE NE'ER FLOWN BEFORE!
FOR, IF ANYTHING BEFELL FAIR CLEA ...DR. STRANGE HIMSELF COULD NOT GO ON LIVING!
THUS, MOMENTS LATER, THE AWESOME EYE OF AGAMOTTO PIERCES THE ABYSMAL PIT OF NIGHT...
NO! MY PRAYERS WERE FOR NAUGHT!
IT'S THE VERY DRIVER WE HAD BEFORE... IN A DREAMLIKE TRANCE!
SOMEONE USED HIM...TO FIND CLEA!
THERE... BEFORE CLEA'S DWELLING... A PARKED CAB!
MAY THE SERAPHIM GRANT THAT IT NOT BE THE SAME..!
THEN, STREAKING UPWARD EVEN AS HIS LIPS PRONOUNCE THE PRECIOUS NAME...
I'M...TOO LATE! SHE'S GONE!
BUT WHERE? I MUST FIND HER..!
YES... OF COURSE!
...KEEP TO THE SHADOWS, FAIR ONE... OUT OF SIGHT!
WHO CAN TELL WHAT EVIL MAY LURK AROUND THE NEXT CORNER?
I CANNOT TELL HOW...BUT WONG SEEMS SOMEHOW STRANGELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!
HIS VOICE... HIS EVERY FEATURE IS THE SAME...AND YET...
19

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
HERE'S A COUPLE'A LIKELY PROSPECTS!
RUSH 'EM... FAST!
WONG... WHO ARE THEY?
EVIL ONES, MISS CLEA... THE PLAGUE-LIKE SCOURGE OF SOCIETY!
FLEE, WHILE I...
SHE'LL DO NUTHIN', BALDY...
'CAUSE I GOT NO SCRUPLES ABOUT HITTIN' WOMEN!
SO... MORE OF THE MONSTROUS MADNESS OF THIS MISSHAPEN WORLD!
YET, A SPELL OF TEMPORAL VANISHMENT WILL DISPOSE OF YOU--!
THIS CAN'T BE FOR REAL!
I'M FADIN' AWAY... INTO THIN AIR...
MY SPELL WORKED... DESPITE MY WEAKNESS!
BUT, IT HAS LEFT ME WEAKER... MORE HELPLESS THAN EVER...!
HEY... DIDJA SEE WHAT SHE DID TO AL?
SHE JUST POINTED AT 'IM... AND HE DID A FADE-OUT!
SHE MUST BE SOME KIND'A WITCH!
GET 'ER... BEFORE SHE CAN TURN ON US!
IF ONLY I COULD USE MY POWERS YET AGAIN!
BUT, I EXHAUSTED THEM... PERHAPS FOREVER!
MY ONLY HOPE IS TO ESCAPE THRU THIS ALLEYWAY, AND...
OHHHH..!
DO NOT BE AFRAID, MY DEAR!
I'VE ONLY COME TO HIDE YOU HERE ...FROM THOSE OTHERS!


THEY'RE RUNNING BY... NOT EVEN STOPPING TO PEER INTO THE ALLEYWAY!
YOU DID THIS SOMEHOW... THRU MYSTIC MEANS SUCH AS I NO LONGER POSSESS!
WHO ARE YOU??
THE ACCURSED, SPITEFUL HUMANS WHO CRAWL THE EARTH CALL ME BY MANY NAMES, MY LADY!
THEY KNOW ME AS MISTRUST ... AS WITLESS FEAR... AS BLIND, UNTHINKING HATRED OF ALL THAT WHICH THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
BUT, YOU SHALL KNOW ME AS... FRIEND!
NEXT: THE BETRAYAL!